



On The Wing

Volume 34, Number 5

Boulder County Audubon Society Newsletter

Nov-Dec 2004

STATE OF THE BIRDS

On Tuesday, October 19, The National Audubon Society released the "The State of the Birds", a report documenting the health and abundance of North America's birds. Appearing in the October issue of *Audubon Magazine*, "The State of the Birds" paints a disturbing picture. Almost 30% of America's bird species are in "significant decline," a situation that signals seriously degraded environmental conditions in the habitats these birds call home.

The bottom line: the state of the birds in 2004 is not sound. In particular, a disturbing 70 percent of grassland species; 36 percent of shrub-land bird species; 25 percent of forest bird species; 13 percent of wetland species; and 23 percent of bird species in urban areas are showing "statistically significant declines."

According to "State of the Birds," these declines are abnormal. Not part of the natural, cyclical rise and fall of bird populations, "statistically significant declines" are due to outside factors such as loss of native grasslands, overgrazing, development of wetlands, bad forest management, invasive species, pollution, and poor land use decisions.

Audubon's President John Flicker sees a clear message in this report. "Like the canary in the coal mine warning the miner of danger ahead, our birds are an indicator of environmental and human health," he said. "Birds signal that we are at risk next."

But, Flicker also sees a clear path out of trouble. "People may have created these problems, but people can solve
(Continued on page 2)

BCAS 4th Tuesday Program Series

November 23, 7:30 P.M.



Congratulations to Ted & Kei Floyd, shown here introducing baby Hannah, who was born Oct 4, to the joys of birdwatching. Welcome, Hannah!

Ted Floyd, the editor of *Birding* magazine and a resident of Boulder, will talk to us about "The Changing Face of Birding: Challenges and Opportunities" He will focus on some recent ornithological developments with direct relevance to birders in the Boulder area. Topics to be covered will include the growth of birding and birder demographics; new electronic, print, and other resources for birders; and current and shifting paradigms for bird identification and bird study more generally. Ted will review the "Top 10 Bird Identification Challenges in Boulder County", and he will even explain how to separate the all-new, A.O.U.-approved Cackling Goose from the good ol'fashioned Canada Goose.

Susie Mottashed will be signing copies of her new book, *Who's in Your Backyard*, at the November 23rd meeting. , [More on page 6]

Refreshments and Socializing before the meeting, at 7 PM

Meetings are held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Boulder, 5001 Pennsylvania Ave. (off 55th St. between Arapahoe and Baseline)

Many thanks to Loren Golten for providing an interesting last-minute program on bats in Sept. after Ted Floyd had to reschedule.

Tuesday, January 25, 2005 "Birding in the Pantanal," with Alice and Joe Doyle. The Pantanal in southwestern Brazil is the world's largest freshwater wetland, half the size of France.

Programs: Joan Dawson (303-494-8252), Steve Jones (303-494-2468), Ru Wing (303-447-1080). Program suggestions are always welcome.

(Continued from page 1)

them, if we act now," he stated. To that end, Audubon is now addressing the findings of "State of the Birds" in its conservation agenda at the legislative and policy making level, and in the states where the greatest conservation challenges exist.

Compiled by Audubon Scientist Greg Butcher, "State of the Birds" analysis makes the case for private and public action. Based on the report's findings, Audubon is advocating for improved grassland, forest, and wetland protection, stronger pollution controls, partnerships with private landowners, and backyard habitat programs for homeowners.

"State of the Birds" summarizes the status of nearly 700 birds species native to the continental United States, focusing on the condition of species in each of five habitat types: grasslands, shrub lands, forests, wetlands, and urban areas (the fastest growing habitat type in the U.S.). Written using USGS Breeding Bird Survey and Audubon's Watch List, cross-referenced with Audubon's Christmas Bird Count data, the report will be issued on a yearly basis, and will inform Audubon's conservation agenda, identifying key areas requiring immediate action.

Birds not only serve as reliable indicators of environmental conditions, they also contribute greatly to the U.S. economy. Keeping birds - and their home habitats - in good condition is not only a good conservation policy, it is also good business. The worth of birds beyond their aesthetic and conservation value is something that is beginning to be more fully appreciated, a situation that has created allies for bird conservation in small and large business, and local governments - entities that have been historically unlikely conservation partners.

"According to the U.S. Forest Service, 70 million Americans - one-third of all adults in this country - call themselves birdwatchers. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service notes that they contribute at least \$32 billion in retail sales, \$85 billion in overall economic output, and \$13 billion in state and federal taxes, creating 863,406 jobs," continued Flicker. "Birds also contribute to the bottom line in more subtle ways, providing free pest and weed control, distributing seeds, and pollinating flowers and crops. American businesses and communities simply cannot afford to ignore the state of the birds."

A digest of the report was published in the October issue of *Audubon* magazine and a further analysis is available on the Audubon website, www.audubon.org/bird/stateofthebirds.

The article was distributed to Audubon chapters by John Bianchi, Audubon Director of Communications, for use in newsletters and Web sites.



Support your local chapter—Coordinate a simple task

BCAS badly needs a coupon coordinator who is located in the city of Boulder. Maddy Goldhawk is making the phone-call-reminders to those who faithfully purchase coupons, but she is often out of town. We need someone to help deliver the coupons, and to sell them at our monthly chapter meetings.

This is a valuable but simple way of helping BCAS to fund important programs. Please call a member of the Board (page 2) to volunteer. You can learn the basics of this very important function in one hour, and spend as little as 4 hours a month at the task: coupons bring in thousands of dollars a year.

Chapter Membership Renewals Due

If "2004" appears on your mailing label, it's time to renew your chapter membership. If you are in that category and not a current NAS member, renewal is required to continue receiving *On the Wing*.

Boulder County Audubon Society

Officers

Interim President

Scott Severs (303)684-6430
Secretary (1)

Beverly Baker (303)666-1972
Secretary (2)

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Treasurer

Curtis Williams (303)494-5071

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Susie Mottashed

George Oetzel

John Tumasonis

Bob Turner

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Newsletter Editor

George Oetzel (303)543-3712
Web Site

Curtis Williams (303)494-5071
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Richard Stomp (303)415-0130
Programs

Joan Dawson (303-494-8252)

Steve Jones (303-494-2468),

Ru Wing (303-447-1080).

Field Trips

John Tumasonis 303-926-8779

Education **Susie Mottashed**

(303)499-0984

Bird-A-Thon Team Coordinator

Bill Kaempfer (303)443-3175

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Boulder County Audubon Society.

On the Wing is published five times annually: Sept, Nov, Jan, March, and May.

Next issue:

Deadline for materials for the January 2005 issue is **Tue, Jan 4**. Email address for submissions:

nature@birdhike.com

Look for *On the Wing* in PDF format and in color

www.boulderaudubon.org
Available before you receive your copy in the mail.

Boulder County Audubon Field Trips for Nov. 2004—Jan. 2005

Saturday November 20 – 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Leader: Ray Davis (“Davis”)

Lyons Birding – pinion jays, woodpeckers, nuthatches, finches, and foothills species.

Boulder Group will meet at Scott Carpenter Park, 30th near Arapahoe, to carpool at 7:30 a.m.

All others meet at Lyons Park 'N Ride at Main and 4th Sts. Pack a lunch, snacks, water, warm clothes.

Birding at Davis house has wheelchair access. All levels welcome.

Call Davis for details: 303-823-5332

Saturday December 4 – 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Leader: Dianna Johnston

Boulder County raptor tour. Driving tour. Hawks, eagles, falcons, and other birds.

Bring lunch, snacks, and warm clothes.

Meet at Niwot Park 'N Ride for carpooling. All levels welcome.

Call Dianna for details: 303-682-5662

Saturday December 11 – Fort Collins Area – 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

“Fort Fun” birding tour. Fort Collins Audubon welcomes the Boulder County Audubon group. To explore Fort Collins area “hot spots” for numerous species of winter birds.

Leader(s): Gary Lefko and John Tumasonis.

Boulder Group meets at Scott Carpenter Park at 8:30 a.m. for carpooling

Meet Fort Collins group at Colorado Welcome Center parking lot – near Prospect exit off I-25.

Bring lunch, snacks, and warm clothes. All levels welcome.

Contacts: Fort Collins – Gary at 970-897-2454; Boulder – John at 303-926-8779

Saturday December 18—Christmas Bird Count, See page 5 for signup information.

Tuesday, December 21, 7-10 a.m Leader: Steve Jones

Joint trip with BCNA. Winter Solstice Sunrise Hike and optional breakfast at the Garden Gate Cafe in Niwot. Join us for this annual holiday tradition. You may bring a thought or poem to share at a brief sunrise ceremony at the Boulder Creek bridge. Meet at the Teller Farms Open Space north parking area, on the south side of Valmont Road about a half-mile west of 95th St., at 7 a.m. Contact Steve Jones (stephen.jones@earthlink.net; 303-494-2468) to reserve a place for breakfast.

Saturday January 8 – 1:00 p.m. to dusk. Leader: Ted Floyd, Editor of “Birding” magazine.

Boulder wetlands outing to Walden Ponds and Valmont Reservoir to see thousands of waterfowl, gulls, and passerines. This trip will provide an outstanding opportunity for detailed study of diverse winter avifauna in two of the best cold weather birding “hot-spots” in Colorado. Relaxed, unhurried pace.

Meet at Cottonwood Marsh (Walden Ponds) parking lot off 75th St.

Bring: Very warm clothes and scopes.

Limited to 20 people. RSVP required. Email Ted at tedfloyd@aba.org

Sunday January 16 - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Leader: Scott Severs

Buttonrock birding and hike. A moderate hike up a unique area of St. Vrain Creek in the foothills above Lyons to see dippers, jays, nuthatches, crossbills, finches, chickadees, and other mountain species.

Meet at Niwot Park 'N Ride for carpooling.

Bring lunch, snacks, and warm clothes. All levels welcome.

Call Scott for details: 303-684-6430

Saturday January 22 – 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Leaders: John Tumasonis and Gary Lefko

Joint trip – Boulder County Audubon welcomes Fort Collins Audubon

Check out Boulder “hot spots” and look for raptors and waterfowl. Meet at Scott Carpenter Park at 30th near Arapahoe.

Call Gary for carpooling details from Fort Collins. Bring lunch, snacks, and very warm clothes.

All levels welcome.

Boulder: call John at 303-926-8779 Fort Collins: call Gary at 970-897-2454

Saturday January 29 – 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Leader: Bill Kampfer

Mountain birding trip – for rosy finches, pine grosbeaks, evening grosbeaks, crossbills.

Meet at the Boulder County Justice Center parking lot at 6th and Canyon (SE corner).

Dress very warmly and bring snacks and water.

Call Bill for details: 303-443-3175



October 26 Program Antler Cycling, Casting and Growth in North American Elk

I was entertained and informed by CU Professor Mel Cundiff's talk about elk antlers. In one amazing slide, the photographer captured elk antlers in the act of falling to the ground when they were shed! Other great slides illustrated many different "racks" including some peculiar-looking deformities that can happen when the stump, or pedicle, from which the antler grows each year becomes damaged. Deformities are also caused by damage to an antler while it is growing, or "in velvet." And if a bull is castrated, by accident or humans, the antlers keep growing in perpetuity and end up thick and asymmetrical, reminding me of mangled cauliflower, and not likely attractive to a cow elk. Professor Cundiff discussed genetic, diet, and age factors influencing antler growth, or velvet stage; timing of antler growth, from February to early September, and antler casting, between February and May; and the rutting season or "advertising with antlers." When all the factors come together to a bull's advantage, he will have a majestic rack, fend off other bulls, mate early and often, and his calves will be born earlier in the season than others, giving them a nutritional advantage to help them survive their first winter.

This talk is one example of the high quality, fun programs sponsored by BCAS. Socializing before and after the programs is also fun and we hope to see you at future talks!

– Bev Baker

Send Wes a Bluebird Thought

Our longtime chapter member with the sunny disposition (also Board member, Program director, coupon-seller, and general handyman) Wes Sears is very ill. Remind him that we are all sending strong and healing thoughts his way. Address: 1115 Wildwood, Boulder CO 80305.



A Day with the Elk and Birds in Rocky Mountain National Park

October 2, 2004: We spent an outstanding day in Rocky Mountain Park with sunny, but cool weather as we communed with the elk, other wildlife, plants, and birds. The elk turned out to be more congenial than we had hoped – walking within a few feet of our vehicles, lying by trail sides, and bugling from only a few yards away. Of the three elk trips I led this fall, this one turned out to be the best, with the bulls in peak form. Moraine Park proved to be the best area for our "elk extravaganza". Bulls with massive 5 and 6 point racks dominated the harems, with younger bulls – 4 and 5 points – trying to sneak in and mate with the cows. The bugling resonated up and down the valley, echoing in the lodgepole pine forests and aspen groves.

The birding was great – with bluebirds, dippers, solitaires, siskins, juncos, robins, nuthatches, ruby-crowned kinglets, hairy woodpeckers, chipping sparrows, and many others. Of particular note was the amazing 10 minute close up we had of a green-tailed towhee taking a wet bath, and then finishing with a dust bath – all from 10 feet away. This towhee paid us no mind as he went about his grooming. At this distance, one could see the exquisite yellow-green coloration in the primaries and tail feathers, as well as the rich chestnut crest and white bib. We also had a close up of a brave mountain chickadee from 3 feet away, who had come over to investigate us. Using the scopes we also had great looks at several mountain bluebirds, a red-tailed hawk, pygmy nuthatches, and solitaires.

It was hard to tear ourselves away from the elk in Moraine Park, with so much going on. Several lone younger bulls had moved out into the open meadows and were beginning to challenge the older bulls. The cows were bedding down for the day in shady areas with their 200 pound calves nearby. A family of 4 coyotes joined the elk and birds, near where we watched, hunting for mice and climbing onto logs to look around. They let out a wailing chorus to join the elk bugling.

After looking at all the obvious animals and birds, we turned our attention towards the more subtle: perfectly formed elk tracks in the mud, bull thistle tops nipped off by golden-mantled ground squirrels, sticky gumweed still in bloom, the form and shape of pine and fir needles, how the sun caught the aspen leaves, the soft call of a bluebird, and the dramatic sweep of the high peaks covered in snow. Everywhere we looked and listened, some small drama was unfolding. I know I left that day with some melancholy, with echoes of elk bugling still in my ears and the sparkle of pine needles catching the sunlight in a slight breeze. – John T

Kudos to BCAS Volunteers

BCAS is an all volunteer organization. Let's thank a few special contributors.

Bob Turner deserves special recognition for his 34 years of service to Audubon—first as an employee of NAS, later as BCAS president, and has co-chaired the membership committee for the last four years with his wife Gail. They have handed off the membership job to Marti Oetzel, but Bob will remain on the BCAS Board to provide the special perspective and knowledge he has gained over the years. Thanks, Bob and Gail.

Thanks to John Tumasonis, the current field trip schedule completely fills page 3. He intends to maintain a full schedule, partly by scheduling joint trips with the Boulder Bird Club and our sister chapter in Fort Collins.

Thanks also to Connie Holsinger for arranging the productive retreat in Sept. with Lynn Teneffoss, of NAS, to set goals and actions in our effort to revitalize BCAS. She also recruited Amy Schlotthauer, who has agreed to rebuild the BCAS Web site. (More about that in the Jan. issue.)

Susie Mottashed has provided numerous sketches for *On the Wing*. She has now begun work on rebuilding the BCAS education program. She is being helped by Jessica Feld, who was education chair until she left BCAS to pursue nature education full time.

We're happy to welcome as new conservation chair Richard Stomp. Because he is also office manager for Audubon Colorado, we can expect to benefit from closer ties with the State organization.

Did you have a cookie or juice at the last chapter program meeting? Thanks go to the Thielens, our new hospitality committee.

We also have a terrific new program committee consisting of Joan Dawson, Steve Jones, and Ru Wing.



Join
Project FeederWatch
for 2004-05 season.
It's not too late!

FeederWatchers all over North America are counting their feeder birds, for fun and science. You can, too! Become a FeederWatcher today!

This season a FeederWatcher will submit Project FeederWatch's one millionth checklist. The lucky participant will receive an impressive prize package that includes binoculars.

For more information, and to join, visit
<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/>

Join the Christmas Bird Count!

Mark your calendars for the 63rd Boulder Christmas Count on **Saturday, December 18, 2004!** We traditionally have the best-attended count in the state, thanks to the dedicated birders of the Boulder area. How can you participate? Volunteer to join or lead a group—we have 30 territories to cover, so leaders are especially appreciated. Contact Bill Schmoker at (303)702-9589 or bill@schmoker.org for details. We hope to break 100/100 (participants/species) again with your help! Thanks. – Bill Schmoker

Stocking stuffer

Remaining in the BCAS "attic" are a number of Birdathon t-shirts from the past two years. As the Smithsonian has not requested a dozen for display, we offer these shirts to members at a vastly discounted price: \$3.00 each. All are high quality with beautiful illustrations by local artists. The 2003 version is multi-color artwork on white, with the truism, "So many birds--so little time." The 2004 version is bi-color on unbleached white, with subtle drawings of three local species representing our typical habitats (mountain: nuthatch; wetland: heron; plains: meadowlark) by Susie Mottashed. Only mediums (36) and larges (38-40) are left. They make great nightgowns for small people, however.

Call Linda Andes-Georges (303)772-3239 to place an order.

Eat more food.

Drink more wine.

Walk it all off by birding.

Many longtime BCAS members are familiar with the classic supermarket coupon programs which allow our chapter to earn money back for coupons sold. In the case of the King Soopers, Wild Oats, and Safeway supermarket coupons (our biggest moneymakers at \$1610 in 2004), we earn 5% on every dollar spent.

However those of us who secretly love fine living may need this reminder: our "take" on Liquormart coupons is a handsome 10%, and this can add up very quickly (say, if you have a party or a wedding).

Buying coupons is pain-free: call our current broker, Maddy Goldhawk, tel. (303)494-7953, and confess how much you want to spend. You can pick up your certificates or "cash cards," or you can have them delivered to your door. Then when you go to the stores, you spend the coupons--or use the cards--just like cash. You can also buy the coupons at our monthly meetings.

Who Lives In Your Backyard?

A new book by Susie Mottashed

BCAS will be hosting a book-signing event at our November 23rd meeting. Susie Mottashed, local author and contributing illustrator of *On the Wing*, has written and illustrated a new book entitled *Who Lives In Your Backyard?*

"Who Lives In Your Backyard" shows both children and adults how to create a nature journal through their own observations and sketches. Susie has taught her nature journal class for several years. Now all of that great information, as well as Susie's authentic field sketches of various areas in Boulder, are combined into a beautiful hardback book.

A special note: *Who Lives In Your Backyard* will be used as a fundraising tool for our chapter as well as other Audubon chapters. For each book purchased at an Audubon-sponsored event, that chapter will receive a \$10 donation. This book will make a great Christmas gift for you, your children or grandchildren!

This will be a fun opportunity to meet Susie and have her sign your book, get a little shopping done and support our chapter all at the same time!

Nature journal class Dec 2 & 4

Who Lives in Your Backyard?

The Wild Bird Center in Boulder will be the location for Susie Mottashed's next nature journal class. This fun 2-session class will teach you how to record what you observe in nature through field notes and sketches. Learn how to improve your observation skills and field sketching techniques. Classroom instruction and a field trip are included. Bring an 8 1/2 x 11 sketchbook, pens and pencils. (Min 4 students- max 8). Please call the Wild Bird Center at (303) 442-1322 to register no later than December 1, 2004. Cost: \$40

Class Date: Thursday December 2
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Field Trip: Saturday December 4
8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

BOULDER COUNTY WILDLIFE INVENTORY, MAY 2004

Gillian and Alex Brown, 4560 Darley Avenue, Boulder, CO 80305.
E-mail: gillianbro@yahoo.com

May 2004 was a relatively dry (13th driest May on record) and mild (17th warmest) month. May is always the peak month for migration, and the month in which rarities are most likely to be seen. Good weather tends to keep the birds scattered, and it was noticeable that many birds seemed to head straight for their breeding areas without stopping on the way. For instance, **Chipping Sparrows** were seen in much lower numbers than usual on the plains. Birders had to work hard to find migrants. However, over the entire month a wide range of less usual species was found bringing May's total to a very respectable 214 bird species. It seemed as if different birders had very different experiences. On the morning of May 14, Scott Severs described Boulder Creek as "hopping" with birds while Christof Demont-Heinrich described the same area as "dead, dead, dead".

It is always interesting to see what birds are reported after a gap of over a year. This included two species of vireo, and three species of warbler. **White-eyed Vireo** was last seen in 2002, and **Yellow-throated Vireo** was seen in 1999. A **Cape May Warbler** (last observed in 2000) was seen on Boulder Creek outside the public library for nearly a week and delighted birders from all over the state. **Pine Warbler** (1998) and **Prairie Warbler** (1993) are two of our less usual east coast warblers. Additionally, **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was reported for the first time since 1997.

Shorebird migration was still going strong at the beginning of the month. **Dunlin** are more usually seen in the winter than on spring migration. Several **Red-necked Phalarope** were found among the flocks of the more regularly occurring **Wilson's Phalarope**. **Black-necked Stilt** continued to linger, and a single **Sanderling** was found at Union Reservoir. Although warblers were not reported in great numbers, a surprising 22 different species of warbler were observed. **Black-throated Sparrow** was one of the less usual sparrows that was observed.

Certain birds seem to be expanding in both terms of numbers and habitat. **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** seem to be becoming much more widespread. **Blue Grosbeaks** were reported in the mountains as well as on the plains, and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, although only found in small numbers, were reported as high as Nederland.

For a complete listing of May's sightings, please visit the Audubon website at www.boulderaudubon.org.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE MAY INVENTORY

Eric Albright, Linda Andes-Georges, Bev Baker, Delta Bement, Elaine Bentz, Maggie Boswell, Alex and Gillian Brown, Bob Brown, Tamie Bulow, George Coffee, Cindy Cornelius, Allen Crockett, Alex Cruz, Raymond E. Davis, Libby Ellis, Rob and Amanda Ellis, David Ely, Ted Floyd, Steve Frye, Peter Gent, Paula Hansley, Christof Heinrich, Ann Hicks, Wayne and Diane Johnson, Steve Jones, Bill Kaempfer, Steve Kennedy, Loch Kilpatrick, S. Kure, Roger Linfield, Van McCatcheon, Gene and Lynn Monroe, George and Marti Oetzel, Sue A. Olmsted, Rick Olson, Nathan Pieplow, Peter Plage, Myron and Suzi Plooster, John Prather, Jeff Price, Bill Schmoker, Wes Sears, Scott Severs, Randy Siebert, Bob Spencer, Steve Stachowiak, Marianne Stilson, Heather Swanson, Oakleigh Thorne, John Tumasonis, David J. Waltman, Jeff Yegian, Eric Zorawowicz.

BOULDER COUNTY WILDLIFE INVENTORY, JUNE - JULY 2004

Gillian and Alex Brown, 4560 Darley Avenue, Boulder, CO 80305.

E-mail gillianbro@yahoo.com

After the excitement of spring migration, most birders seem to be much less active in June and July. The plains were very badly covered for both months. Hardly any ducks or grebes were reported. Of course, these are the months that such birds are breeding, are therefore less conspicuous, as well as going into eclipse plumage. However, we would expect these birds to be present. On the other hand, both the foothills and the subalpine region of the county were well reported with a good representation of the birds present in these habitats. June's reports were helped by both the Indian Peaks breeding bird count (IP), and the Grasslands Bioblitz in the south of the county.

Although we tend to think of June and July as summer months, there were signs of fall migration. **Solitary Sandpiper** and **Willet** were two of the shorebird species seen at the end of July as they migrated southwards. Huge kettles of **Swainson's Hawks** were seen in June, one with over a hundred birds reported. By July it was becoming harder to find some of our more common breeding birds such as **Dusky Flycatcher** and **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, neither of which was reported that month.

A **Cassin's Sparrow** found by Tony Leukering was a first record for the county. These birds are seen fairly regularly (and heard even more so) on the eastern plains of Colorado, and are known to be breeding in Weld County. **Grasshopper Sparrows** were widespread this year, and could reliably be seen in an assortment of locations. **Wood Thrush**, **Dickcissel** and **Orchard Oriole** were all birds that were reported after an absence of a year. A **Blue-winged Warbler** was seen in Gregory Canyon by many observers over a period of several weeks. This bird's song led to some debate about whether it was pure-bred or a hybrid Brewster's Warbler (Golden-winged X Blue-winged). Although all the visual indications were that it was **Blue-winged**, it is virtually impossible to confirm this in the field. An **Ovenbird** seen in June was also a new warbler for the year. **Hooded Warblers** were seen in both June and July, indicating that this species may have again successfully bred. **Scarlet Tanagers** were seen in three different locations in June.

Bald Eagles were seen in at least three different locations in June. Owls were well reported over the two months. **Flammulated Owl** and **Common Barn Owl** were both new species for the year. **Burrowing Owls** seem to be successfully breeding in at least one location, having been very marginal in the county for several years. **Long-eared Owl** is a bird that is more commonly reported in winter, although considered an all year resident.

We rarely give much mention to the mammals seen as these are very under-reported. However, a **Big-horned Sheep** seen in the Boulder foothills deserves a mention as it is the first report since 1993.

Altogether 168 bird species were reported in June which is the second highest total for this month since the wildlife inventory began. This is somewhat surprising as there are some notable absences of common plains birds. The 147 bird species reported for July is probably average, but depends more on the coverage by birders than on the number of bird species. It is certainly an improvement over last year's abysmal 113 species.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE JUNE & JULY INVENTORIES

Clark Anderson, Linda Andes-Georges, Jamie Barringer, Elaine Bentz, Alan Bell, Maggie Boswell, Alex & Gillian Brown, Bob Brown, Cindy Carlisle, George Coffee, Gene Ellis, Libby Ellis, David Ely, Ted Floyd, Steve Frye, Peter Gent, Merrill Gilfillan, Steve Jones, Tina Jones, Loch Kilpatrick, Joanie Kleypas, Tony Leukering, Cherie Long, Gary Matthews, Gene & Lynn Monroe, Don Mullineaux, Peter Plage, Suzi and Myron Plooster, Dick Schottler, Bill Schmoker, Scott Severs, Bob Spencer, Marianne Stilson, Joyce Takamine, Taylors, John Tumasonis, David J. Waltman, Cole Wild, Chris Wood, George Young, Eric Zorawowicz.



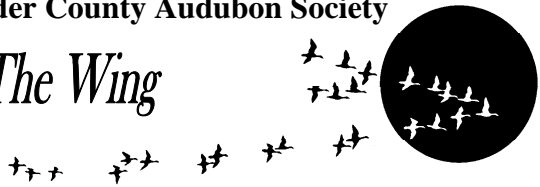
© Bill Schmoker, www.schmoker.org

A bald eagle glides to its perch on a cottonwood snag, while a great blue heron silently stalks the shoreline. Brilliant orange-red orioles flit against the backdrop of the snow-capped Rockies being set ablaze by the rising sun. Where? Barr Lake State Park-your oasis near the city! It's a special place to find balm for the soul or birds for your life list.

Support the park by purchasing our spectacular 2005 calendar. It captures a year's worth of beautiful and unique birds calling Barr Lake their home or favorite bed and breakfast. This planner will encourage you to make a date with nature. The funds help support the Nature Center, educational programs, trail improvement, and volunteer training. Great gifts! Only \$10.00! Call 303 659-6005, email us at barr.lake.nature.center@state.co.us, or drop by the Nature Center (Wednesday-Sunday, 9am-4pm) to purchase your calendars.

Boulder County Audubon Society

On The Wing



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www.boulderaudubon.org

Program Nov 23
7:30 PM
Socializing 7 PM

Ted Floyd
The Changing Face of Birding

2004 by your name?
Time to renew Chapter
membership

Boulder County Audubon Society Membership

When you join the National Audubon Society (NAS), you automatically become a member of the Boulder County Audubon Society (BCAS) as well. Joint membership in the NAS and BCAS includes *Audubon* magazine from NAS and the BCAS newsletter *On the Wing* (5 issues annually), as well as participation in all BCAS activities.

However, BCAS receives only a small portion of your NAS dues to support local activities, less than the cost of producing and mailing *On the Wing*. We encourage you to join BCAS to help support local activities.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip (9 digit please) _____

E-mail _____

- \$20 Annual BCAS membership
- \$ _____ Additional contribution

Make check payable to *Boulder County Audubon Society*

Mail to: Boulder County Audubon Society
P.O. Box 2081
Boulder, CO 80306